

# Arizona Ready

## Our Children. Our Schools. Our future.

APRIL 2013

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Arizona Ready Education Report Card on Capitol Hill:

[Video Testimony](#)

[Written Testimony](#)

### **UPCOMING**

**May 2-10:**

The [Education Nation](#) Tour by NBC is in town. Keep a look out for stories and interviews about education.

**May 12-17:**

The Intel Science and Engineering Fair ([ISEF](#)) is in Phoenix. Great chance to see up and coming STEM leaders and projects

### **RESOURCES**

Hidden threat with Smart Phones. Advice for parents.: [YouTube](#)

[Career exploration](#) for students and adults.

### **In the News**

- Stay updated on the latest education news with Arizona Ready!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This month, we hit a big milestone. For some it may have flown under the radar or even seemed inconsequential – especially for an education reform plan. We officially reached 10,000 likes on Facebook – something we aimed to do since we first launched our Facebook page.

Many may ask why this matters to an education policy entity. How does a Facebook following help us accomplish our goals? It is absolutely critical to the improvement of education in Arizona, that we all take part in it. Parents, teachers, community leaders, business leaders and students alike all have an interest in a quality education, but it isn't always easy to be engaged. Social media opens the door for the public to be informed about changes as they happen, to explore new possibilities, to learn from others with the same interest and to share the successes and challenges they face as it relates to education. Simply put, education is a community issue, and social media allows for broader and deeper community involvement.

The discussions are no longer limited to those who can take time away from work to attend a board meeting, or to those parents fortunate enough to stay home, or for those who work in education. The conversation now is expanded well beyond those typical venues, and this is something education should capitalize on.

Clearly a social media goal pales in comparison to the four education goals that we are working so hard to achieve. There is a lot of work to do to improve both the educational performance of students and the quality of schools. This is something we take incredibly seriously and are quite honored to be a part of. But we will not be successful without the social discourse, support and involvement we find through Facebook, Twitter, Google+, etc. We know there are flaws with any medium, but we have been impressed with, and incredibly grateful for, the engagement and input we find through our social media mediums. It is great to see so many people focused on how we can do better for our students.

So, as we move forward, we hope the growth continues and that you all feel empowered to interact with us on a regular basis. Please also share our newsletters with your friends to spread the conversation. Education reform is a difficult process, but it's one that matters and something we can all be involved in. What better topic than the future of our state's economic growth and the success of our children?

Sincerely,

The Arizona Ready Team